

In the Claims:

Amend the current Claim set, where indicated, so that it conforms to the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a peracid or diacylperoxide, characterized in that a mixed anhydride of formula  $R^1[C(O)OC(O)OR^2]_n$  or  $[R^3C(O)OC(O)O]_pR^4$  is contacted with a hydroperoxide of formula  $R^5[OOH]_m$  in the presence of a base, wherein

$R^1$  represents a mono-, di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted tetravalent  $C_1-C_{19}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$n$  is 1-4,

$R^2$  represents a  $C_1-C_{20}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$R^3$  represents a  $C_1-C_{19}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$R^4$  represents a di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted tetravalent  $C_1-C_{20}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$p$  is 2-4,

$R^5$  represents hydrogen or a mono- or  $C_2-C_{20}$  acyl group, in which the acyl group may optionally contain one or more hetero atoms,

$m$  is 1 or 2, and

if  $R^5$  represents hydrogen,  $m$  is 1.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that  $n$  is 1 or 2.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  independently represents a linear or branched  $C_4$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl or  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$  aryl group, said alkyl and aryl groups optionally being substituted with a hydroxy group, a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl group or a halogen atom.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that  $R^2$  represents a  $C_3$ - $C_8$  alkyl group or a  $C_6$ - $C_{12}$  aryl group.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that a mixed anhydride of formula  $R^1[C(O)OC(O)OR^2]_n$  is used.

6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that  $R^5$  represents hydrogen.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at a pH of 4 or higher.

9. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in the absence of an organic solvent.

**10 - 16. (Cancelled)**